

What is claimed is:

1. A method for remotely accessing a base computer from internet-enabled remote devices wherein the remote devices do not include remote access software, comprising in combination:
  - establishing a remote access session with one of the remote devices at an internet central server system;
  - presenting a task list to the remote device from said central server system;
  - receiving a task selection at said central server system from the remote device;
  - establishing a persistent connection between said central server system and a base computer in response to intermittent contact from said base computer to said central server system;
  - transmitting said task from said central server system to the base computer via said connection between said central server system and said base computer;
  - receiving at said central server system task data from the base computer responsive to said transmitted task; and
  - presenting from said central server system a task response compiled from said task data to the remote device.

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2. The method of claim 1 further comprising terminating said remote access session by said central server system.

3. The method of claim 2 further comprising communicating said task response via a protocol compatible with the remote device.

5 4. The method of claim 3 wherein said protocol is TCP/IP for remote devices configured as computers.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein said protocol is WAP for remote devices configured as wireless communication devices.

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6. The method of claim 1 further comprising authenticating the user of the remote device while establishing the remote access session.

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7. The method of claim 6 further comprising providing a secure communication means while establishing the remote access session and continuing said secure communication between said central server system and the remote device until said session is terminated.

20 8. The method of claim 7 further comprising encrypting the communications between said central server system and the base computer.

9. The method of claim 8 further comprising establishing a communication link between the base computer and the central server system when the base computer is not already connected to the internet.
- 5 10. The method of claim 9 further comprising dialing up a base computer modem by the central server system to wake up the base computer to establish said communication link.
- 10 11. The method of claim 10 further comprising disconnecting from the dial up connection by the base computer and then reestablishing the communication link via the internet between said central server system and said base computer.
- 15 12. A remote access system, comprising in combination:  
a central server system in operative communication with the internet;  
an internet server for communicating with remote devices, said internet server comprising one server within said central server system;  
a task transmitter within said central server system for transmitting tasks to base computers; and  
a task data receiver within said central server system for receiving task data from base computers.

13. The remote access system of claim 12 further comprising security services enabled between said central server system and remote devices, and between said central server system and base computers.
- 5 14. The remote access system of claim 13 wherein said security services between said central server system and remote devices include means for authenticating the user of the remote device.
- 10 15. The remote access system of claim 14 wherein said security services between said central server system and base computers includes encryption.